

State of South Dakota

SEVENTY-EIGHTH SESSION
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY, 2003

775I0776

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 1009

Introduced by: Representatives Rhoden and Burg and Senators Symens and Bogue

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION, Requesting that a bipartisan delegation of South Dakota
2 state legislators travel to Washington, D.C., to meet with congressional leaders,
3 administration, and Department of Agriculture officials to express the need for disaster
4 assistance targeted to those in most serious need.

5 WHEREAS, significant portions of South Dakota are entering into a third consecutive year
6 of severe drought conditions; and

7 WHEREAS, some areas of western South Dakota have not experienced appreciable
8 precipitation for more than eighteen months; and

9 WHEREAS, a citizen's task force in seven northwestern South Dakota counties has compiled
10 information on absolute minimum needs that would be required for ranchers to hold on until
11 Spring; and

12 WHEREAS, those absolute minimum needs include more than forty-five million pounds of
13 hay (forty-five thousand one thousand pound bales), eighty-six thousand bushels of corn, four
14 thousand one-hundred sixty barrels of protein supplement, six hundred forty-two tons of range
15 cake, six thousand three hundred seventy-five bushels of oats, eight hundred bags of soybean
16 meal, and fifteen tons of straw; and



1 WHEREAS, transporting this amount of feed would require an estimated one thousand three
2 hundred seventy tractor-trailer units which, parked end-to-end, would stretch for twenty-six
3 miles; and

4 WHEREAS, these statistics represent only feed assistance needs reported to county
5 extension offices in Perkins, Harding, Corson, Butte, Meade, Lawrence, Dewey, and Ziebach
6 counties; and

7 WHEREAS, drought conditions in varying degrees of severity extend over most of the State
8 of South Dakota; and

9 WHEREAS, additional needs including water, food, fuel, and health have been reported; and

10 WHEREAS, the economic repercussions from drought also imperil non farm and ranch rural
11 residents, main street businesses, churches, schools, and other institutions; and

12 WHEREAS, disaster assistance provided by the United States Department of Agriculture
13 during 2002 was greatly appreciated, but inadequate to deal with the scope of this environmental
14 and economic disaster; and

15 WHEREAS, it is important that disaster assistance approved by Congress accurately target
16 those most in need of help:

17 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the House of Representatives of the Seventy-
18 eighth Legislature of the State of South Dakota, the Senate concurring therein, that Congress
19 should work to provide adequate targeted disaster assistance sufficient to allow ranchers,
20 farmers, and their rural communities to survive; and

21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a delegation of legislators travel to Washington, D.C.
22 to meet with congressional, administration, and Department of Agriculture officials regarding
23 drought-related issues.